

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:LTC PRADOS OJCS:CAPT STREIGHTISS

APPROVED BY NEA - MR ATHERTON

NEA/EGY - L W SEMAKIS

NEA/IAI - H H STACKHOUSE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN MINEFIELDS

1. ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION ON MINEFIELDS EMPLACED BY EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES IN THE SUEZ CANAL, AND ITS APPROACHES, TO INCLUDE THE GULF OF SUEZ AND THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE RED SEA. SO FAR THESE EFFORTS HAVE MET WITH ONLY LIMITED RESULTS. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE PROVIDED ONLY A SKETCH OF EGYPTIAN MINEFIELDS EMPLACED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE PORT SAID AREA. THE ISRAELIS HAVE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION.

2. IN ORDER TO PROPERLY PLAN THE MINESWEEPING OPERATIONS, UTILIZING OUR HELICOPTER MINE COUNTERMEASURES CAPABILITY AND THE BRITISH MINESWEEPS, DETAILED INFORMATION IS REQUIRED. AS AN ISRAELI SHIP WAS SUNK AND ANOTHER DAMAGED BY MINES IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, THIS AREA MUST ALSO BE
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CHECKED BEFORE SHIPS CAN SAFELY USE THE SUEZ.

3. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF EXPEDITIOUSLY CLEARING THE SUEZ CANAL AND ITS APPROACHES FOR USE BY COMMERCIAL SHIPS. NUMBERS, TYPES, CHARACTERISTICS, LOCATIONS, SETTINGS AND DATES OF DEPLOYMENT OF MINES ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO MOST RAPIDLY AND

SAFELY PROCEED WITH SWEEPING OPERATIONS.

4. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST YOU PURSUE, AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT, THE PROMPT RELEASE TO THE US OF ALL DETAILS CONCERNING MINEFIELDS EMPLACED BY THEIR FORCES IN THE AREMENTIONED WATERWAYS. RUSH

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